



MSHO Depression Performance Improvement Project

This initiative was co-sponsored by UCare, Medica, MHP and Stratis Health. The goal was to improve the detection of depression in the institutionalized MSHO population. The objectives of this project are to increase screening rates for depression by 5% and, to increase rates of clinical assessment for positive screens by 5%. Data collection was via chart reviews by trained nurse reviewers.

The health plan collaborative provided approved screening tools to MSHO care coordinators and nursing homes. They also provided care coordinators with training, communication and a monthly risk list of patients who needed screening as MSHO projects cannot mandate care, but rather encourage changes in care. A follow-up clinical assessment by qualified providers was also encouraged after a positive depression screening was found.

Nursing home chart reviews for depression screening documentation were conducted three times. The requirement to retire a project is to show improvement over the life of the project. The audits did show improvement over the baseline, therefore the project formally ended in 2007

<i>Measure</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Re-measurement Period 1</i>	<i>Re-measurement Period 2</i>
Screening Rate	8% (20/250)	36.0% (117/325)*	27.9% (77/276)*	40.5% (124/306)^
Assessment Rate	57.1% (4/7)	71.4% (30/42)	71% (22/31)	62.2% (23/37)

*Screen rate is significantly greater than baseline screen rate, p<.01.

^ Screen rate is significantly greater than baseline screen rate, p<.001.

Plans Real Improvement

Health Plans are required to incorporate the elements of successful Performance Improvement Projects into their day to day processes to achieve system-wide improvement for their MSHO members. The following have been or will be implemented to achieve that end:

- Depression screening has been built into the care coordinator care plans as well as following-up of positive screens
- Depression screening is included in the DHS required annual audit for completeness of the care plan
- Screening tools for care coordinators and nursing homes are available on the health plan's and Stratis Health's website
- The health plans will assist care systems and counties with educating new care coordinators on the use of the screening tools and depression assessment
- Depression report findings will be made available on the health plan's and Stratis Health's website
- Depression report summary and recommendations will be included in upcoming MSHO PIP/health plan newsletters